



MAY 2014

Stay Connected

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Books and More

A Profile of County Library

The County Library, dubbed as the “largest in the country,” has over 80 libraries that serve more than 3.5 million residents.

“We are growing and we are busy,” says Margaret Donnellan Todd, County Librarian. “Communities are using our libraries and we have money to renovate and build new ones. We use the latest design concepts, too.”

The County Library is more than just books.

It is a center for learning for all ages. Family Place is dedicated to children ages zero to three where learning is based on neuroscience. It is a safe, free place for families to interact and learn at the same time.

It is digital. More libraries are adding more digital content to make resources and items of interest more accessible and easy to find. Patrons can download books, music, and movies. At several libraries, laptops can be borrowed from vending machines free-of-charge. Wi-Fi is free!

It is an alternative place. Libraries have become a place where people work, a home away from home, and a place of respite next to home and office.

It is community-engaged. Library managers choose programs that work for the community they serve. They customize programs that suit the needs of the community.

It is customer-service driven. “The culture of the library is always customer service,” Donnellan Todd says. “We listen to what customers want.” In a recent polling, the County

Library system received an A+ rating for customer service by its clients.

It is a change agent. Libraries are transforming to a self-service model through technology without affecting quality of service or efficiency. Technology is at the heart of what libraries do.

THE LIBRARY GIVES YOU THE
FREEDOM TO **CONNECT, EXPLORE,**
CREATE – WHATEVER YOUR NEEDS
OR DREAMS.

It is team-building. A strategic plan was recently put in place with the collaboration of library staff from various classifications. “The essence of team building is to allow staff to build the dream,” Donnellan Todd adds.

Indeed, the County Library is books and more. With a library card, which is the key for everything the library has to offer, you can use the many services at the library or in the comfort of your home.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

(323) 857-6010

www.lacma.org

Through June 6 – Kaz Oshiro: Chasing Ghosts at Charles White Elementary School Gallery

Through June 22 – Agnes Varda in Californialand

Through June 29 – Helen Pashgian: Light Invisible

Through July 6 – Chinese Paintings from Japanese Collections

Through July 13 – Visions of the South

Through July 20 – Futbol: The Beautiful Game

Through July 27 – Calder and Abstraction: From Avant-Garde to Iconic

Through August 17 – Sam Doyle: The Mind's Eye

Through August 24 – Night in Day

May 18 through November 16 – Edward Biberman, Abbot Kinney and the Story of Venice

Through December 7 – The Painted City: Art from Teotihuacan

Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

www.centertheatregroup.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Through June 1 – The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess

June 7 through July 6 – The Last Confession

Kirk Douglas Theatre

May 4 through June 1 – Different Words

Mark Taper Forum

Through May 25 – The Tallest Tree in the Forest

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

May 17 – Mozart Opera Tales

May 17 through June 7 – Thais

May 18 through 24 – A Streetcar Named Desire

May 22 – Dmitri Hvorostovsky in Recital

Walt Disney Concert Hall

May 15 and 16 – Sibelius with Dudamel & Joshua Bell

May 23 – Mozart/Da Ponte Trilogy: Dudamel Conducts Così

Grand Park

www.grandparkla.org

May 15 – Lunch A La Park

May 15 – Lunchtime Concert

May 26 – Grand Park's Got Moves: The Salsa Session

June 1 – Sunday Sessions

Hollywood Bowl

(323) 850-2000

www.hollywoodbowl.com

June 21 – Opening Night at the Bowl

Visit <http://hr.lacounty.gov> for
information on employment
opportunities with the
County of Los Angeles



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Submissions to the DIGEST may be
edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Check out the DIGEST at

<http://dhrdcap.co.la.ca.us/jic/digest/>



by **Mark Richman, M.D., M.P.H.**
Physician Specialist, Emergency Medicine
Olive View-UCLA Medical Center
 and **Amy Skelton, student volunteer**

Physical Fitness

Staying physically fit can be challenging. But physical activity provides many positive effects such as:

- bone health
- cardiovascular health (fewer heart attacks and strokes)
- improved sleep
- increased life span
- prevention/relief of depression
- stress relief
- weight loss

To understand why physical activity has so many beneficial effects, consider the “runner’s high.”

During physical fitness, you release hormones with morphine-like effects, causing a natural “high” and reducing depression and stress. Physical activity with friends or family allows you both to get fit and spend quality time with persons important to you, which can improve mood and stress.

Some people are limited by pain or medical conditions in the amount or type of physical activity they can do. Walking is excellent exercise, as are water activities or biking.

Not everyone loses weight from exercise. Being cardiovascular healthy while overweight benefits you more than being muscular but not cardiovascular fit. Muscle weighs more than fat, so replacing fat with muscle can lead to more weight but of the healthier sort. Muscle is more metabolically active than fat, so you burn more calories even when not exercising.

Physical activity need not be intensive. Mild- or moderate-intensity activity is beneficial. Rain or shine, warm or cold, indoors or outdoors, intense or mild, there are plenty of ways to stay fit.

Parks After Dark Program

Providing Residents with Another Opportunity to Choose Health

The Department of Public Health is partnering with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Sheriff’s Department for the annual “Parks After Dark” program, now in its fifth year. Through this program, six parks in underserved areas are kept open during evening hours on summer weekends to provide community members of all ages a safe space to be physically active, enjoy entertainment, socialize, and access a wide range of health and social services.

Sheriff Deputies patrol events and participate in activities with residents. Their involvement sends the message that crime and violence will not be tolerated and provides an opportunity for deputies and residents to get to know each other. Each park offers a variety of recreational activities and is an ideal place to provide outreach to communities. “Parks After Dark” welcomes participation from other County programs willing to contribute time, ideas, and resources to further strengthen this already popular summer evening program.

This year’s parks participating in the program include:

- Ted Watkins Memorial Park, 1335 E. 103rd Street, Los Angeles, 90002
- City Terrace Park, 1126 N. Hazard Avenue, Los Angeles, 90063
- Jesse Owens Community Regional Park, 9651 S. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, 90047
- Pamela County Park, 2236 Goodall Avenue, Duarte, 91010
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, 7600 Graham Avenue, Los Angeles, 90001
- Loma Alta Park, 3330 N. Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, 91001

For more information about “Parks After Dark”, or how your County program can be involved this summer, contact the Department of Public Health’s Division of Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention’s Injury and Violence Prevention Program at (213) 351-7888 or via email ivpp@ph.lacounty.gov.

WeTip
WELFARE FRAUD
1 (800) 87-FRAUD

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR, MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
INVITE YOU TO THE

ANTONOVICH

TRAIL DUSTERS RIDE

FRANK G. BONELLI REGIONAL PARK



Activities: Check in and pancake breakfast at 7:00am. The event will kick off at 9:00am and continue through the scenic trails of Bonelli Regional Park. The day will conclude with the traditional barbecue and live country western music.

For horse rental reservations: Graham Bros. Call Lee Graham
(760) 245-7695 email: info@grahambroslivestock.com

For information and to register call: (909)599-8411 or online at
<http://reservations.lacounty.gov/reservations/product.asp>

\$30 per person (Horse rental not included)

Special Recognition: Bonelli Mounted Assistance Unit, Marshall Canyon Mounted Assistance Unit, Whittier Narrows Mounted Assistance Unit, Walnut Creek Mounted Assistance Unit and Los Angeles County Sheriff Mounted Unit.

ADA NOTICE: Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation has designated an ADA Coordinator to carry out this Department's compliance with the non-discriminatory provisions of the ADA. For more information you may contact the ADA Coordinator's Office. Tel. (213)738-2970 TDD (213)427-6118 Fax (213)487-0380 Upon 3-day request notice, sign language interpreters and related materials in alternative formats (Braille-transcript, large print, audio-record, video-captioning, live description) or any other reasonable accommodations are available to the public for County-sponsored activities and events.

STAGING AREA: FRANK G. BONELLI REGIONAL PARK, 120 E. VIA VERDE ROAD, SAN DIMAS, CA 91773

Riding conditions: Combination of rolling hills, some semi-steep hills and level areas. The ride is to be 3 1/2 hours with 2 rest stops.

NON-RIDERS ARE WELCOME. RIDERS UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. NO STALLIONS OR DOGS, PLEASE.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS A MUST. RESERVATION DEADLINE BY FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2014

RESERVATION FORM

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation
FOR INFO CALL: Vincent Pedroza (909)599-8411

MAIL RESERVATION FORM & PAYMENT TO:
Supervisor's Trail Ride, Department of Parks & Recreation,
120 E. Via Verde Road, San Dimas, CA 91773

Name:

Phone:

Address:

City:

No. of Tickets:

No. of Riders:

No. of Non Riders:

Total Enclosed:

Online Registration at <http://reservations.lacounty.gov/reservations/product.asp>

Meet Gary Jones

Director, Department of Beaches and Harbors

Gary Jones, who had served as the Department's acting director for eight months, said he was honored to have been entrusted as leader of a department committed to the stewardship of the County's beaches and the Marina del Rey harbor.



"My goal is to maintain and, wherever possible, improve on the excellent track record of a department whose dedicated employees work hard to maintain the County's stunning beaches, and the beautiful harbor and its public landside amenities in Marina del Rey," Jones said.

Prior to assuming the top executive position, Jones had served as Deputy Director in charge of the Department's asset management and planning divisions since 2009. His responsibilities have included managing the County's portfolio of long-term ground leases in Marina del Rey, which generate \$42 million in revenue each year.

Jones led negotiations for new lease agreements that cleared the way for more than \$100 million worth of redevelopment in the Marina. In 2011, he garnered state Coastal Commission approval for a major change to the Marina's Local Coastal Program and helped secure a master Coastal Development Permit, streamlining redevelopment of the Marina's waterside properties and modernization of six aging anchorages. He created a new Boating Section within the Department, ensuring redevelopment efforts would also include serving the needs of recreational users of the Marina and enhancing public boating amenities. Jones also oversaw capital projects on County beaches and in the Marina.

With more than 22 years of experience in real estate, development, and urban planning, Jones previously managed assets for the City of San Diego for nearly 10 years. There, he was responsible for a real estate portfolio generating more than \$70 million annually.

Born and educated in Great Britain, Jones received his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Southampton University and his Master of Science degree in Real Estate Studies from De Montfort University in Leicester.

In his spare time, Jones, an avid sports fan, follows and supports the Leeds United soccer club and enjoys watching his two young sons play basketball and lacrosse.

MAMA'S Neighborhood

A New Approach to Mother-Centered Care

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is now offering a no-charge program that provides a range of services to eligible low-income pregnant women. Called MAMA's Neighborhood, the program aims to improve pregnancy and birth outcomes for women at risk for delivering preterm (early) or low birth-weight babies.

MAMA'S Neighborhood is the local name for the "Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns" initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. County officials hope to enroll 4,000 women into the program over three years.

"MAMA's Neighborhood will improve health outcomes of moms and their newborns and ensure that babies get the strongest start possible in life," says Program Director Erin Saleeby, MD, MPH.

Funded agencies must demonstrate innovation in care. Women who enroll receive services in a "medical home" by a team of caregivers. The program also links women with social support agencies in their communities for help with housing and nutritious foods, mental health and substance abuse issues, intimate partner violence, and maternal depression and anxiety.

Pregnant mothers will find a warm and welcoming environment where emphasis is placed in empathy, rapport, and trust. Caregivers monitor risks throughout pregnancy and up to eight weeks postpartum.

"We place a high level of importance on bonding between the expecting mother and the care coordinator and medical provider because we know that drives healthy patient behavior," adds Saleeby. "We try to meet mothers where they are and provide support inside and outside the care environment to produce better care and birth outcomes."

MAMA's Neighborhood has enrolled over 400 women so far. Participating DHS health facilities include Wilmington Health Center, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center, Hubert Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center, and LAC+USC Medical Center.

For more information on MAMA's Neighborhood, visit www.dhs.lacounty.gov and click "Women's Services" from the "Our Services" top navigation menu, or call (855) 243-3338.



COUNTYWIDE FITNESS CHALLENGE 2014



WALK IT OFF!

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area

751 South Santa Anita Avenue
South El Monte, CA 91733
1st Supervisorial District

APPEARANCE BY SNOOPY

EXERCISE SESSIONS

HEALTH SCREENINGS

DRAGON BOATS

FACE PAINTING

HEALTHY SNACKS

FREE GIVEAWAYS

DRAWING PRIZES

5K FITNESS WALKS

8:30 a.m., 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 17, 2014

8:00 a.m. – Noon

Join us for a day of family fun featuring
5K fitness walks and wellness screenings.

American Cancer Society Booth

American Diabetes Association Booth

American Heart Association Booth

Human Resources

Hula Hoop & Jump Rope Contests

Massage Therapy

Medical & Dental Plan Booths

Parks and Recreation

"Play for Life!" Booth

"Wacky Wheel of Wellness" booth

EXERCISE SESSIONS:

Bootcamp Pilates

Cardio Dance

Kick Boxing

HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR:

Blood Pressure

Body Mass Index

Carotid Artery

Cholesterol

Glucose

Lung Function

RSVP to secure your giveaway at <http://dhr.lacounty.info>



Share Your Heart Share Your Home



Siblings are forever!

Three sisters equal three times the love, three times the laughter, and three times the joy!

Siblings, for many of our kids, are a link to their past, the only tie that might remain in a family that has been separated in foster care. The security of knowing their brother or sister will be with them through it all is sadly not always a reality for our kids in foster care. Limited placements, limited resources, and many issues sometimes separate our sibling sets from one another. Adoption is crucial for kids who are not returning to their families. It is the best way to keep siblings together forever!

Martha, 10, is the big sister and plays this role very well. She likes to look after her little sisters, and at times, has to be reminded that her role is to be a kid and have fun. She is embracing this new role and has found a love for reading, arts and crafts, and all things girly. The love you see expressed towards her sisters is genuine as she loves to get her sisters engaged in fun activities with her.

Ashley, 7, is happiest when giving or receiving hugs. She has a personality that clicks with everyone and is well liked by teachers, friends, and social workers. Ashley also loves to read like her big sister and strives to do well in school.

Little Xochilt, 6, is the baby of the bunch but this does not slow her down in any way. She strives to keep up with her big sisters and absolutely loves to play outside. With an ever ready smile and big dimples to boot, this little one is as cute as they get!

These girls are ready to find their forever family. Help keep these beautiful girls together with a forever family through adoption.



Photo by Lauren Marsolier

May is CalFresh Awareness Month

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and its broad-based community collaborative have scheduled various activities for “CalFresh Awareness Month,” the partnership’s annual May campaign to increase access to food assistance and promote healthier food choices in the nation’s largest and most diverse county.

In its fourth year, CalFresh Awareness Month has become one of the most comprehensive and coordinated efforts in the state to bring awareness to CalFresh, the new name for the former Food Stamp Program in California. In a letter to all 58 California counties, California Department of Social Services Director Will Lightbourne urged them to adopt similar strategies to those implemented by Los Angeles County.

While the local economy continues to show signs of improvement, many residents are still financially impacted by the recent recession. During that period, L.A. County experienced some of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. Unfortunately, many in need of immediate food assistance are unaware that they may qualify for CalFresh. In the County, only 59% of those eligible are receiving CalFresh food assistance, even though a record high of 1,179,471 individuals received the benefit in January this year.

Working in close collaboration with 40-plus CalFresh partners, the goal of the annual campaign has been to inform residents about CalFresh and remove the barriers that discourage eligible families and individuals from applying.

The partnership also strives to promote the alternative methods to apply for CalFresh benefits, such as the Your Benefits Now (YBN) on-line application system and the 24-hour Customer Service Center. Both methods reduce the need for those seeking assistance to visit DPSS District offices.

Although DPSS has conducted extensive community outreach for many years, the Department’s CalFresh Program launched the first month-long campaign in May 2011. Since then, the Board of Supervisors has helped to promote the effort by proclaiming May as “CalFresh Awareness Month” in the County.

For more information on the activities of CalFresh Awareness Month, visit <http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/calfresh/awareness.cfm>.



**Los Angeles County Supervisor
Mike Antonovich**



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***17<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to Veterans  
and Their Families***

***Saturday, May 24, 2014 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.***

***Arcadia County Park - 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia***

*\* Memorial Day Tribute to Fallen Heroes and POW-MIAs at 11:00am \**

***FREE ADMISSION! FREE PARKING!***

- *California Army National Guard's 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Band*
- *Information booths: Veterans' benefits, employment and legal info*
- *Live music; food trucks; food booths; children's games*
- *Free haircuts, manicures, immunizations and health screenings*
- *Vintage aircraft flyover and skydivers*
- *Wall of Remembrance – bring a photo to display and honor a veteran*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 909-394-2264**

***Event sponsors:***







## The Metro @ Compton

Officials from the Community Development Commission (CDC), dignitaries, and local community members joined Compton Mayor Aja Brown and the Compton City Council as developers Meta Housing Corporation and Western Community Housing celebrated the groundbreaking of The Metro @ Compton Senior Apartments, a 75-unit senior housing development. The CDC provided over \$2.5 million in City of Industry funds for construction and permanent financing. This project is scheduled for completion in December 2014. The development will offer a mix of one- and two-bedroom units for seniors, along with one unit reserved for an onsite manager.

The Metro @ Compton is reserved for seniors 55 and over earning between 30% - 50% of the median income for Los Angeles County. Residents will receive a myriad of services to encourage healthy and independent living such as psychological support, civic engagement, socialization, and employment assistance. The development will include a large courtyard, community room, a computer and multi-media room, communal kitchen, and library. The Metro @ Compton will substantially enhance pedestrian access to the adjacent Compton Metro Blue Line light rail and bus station.

CDC Executive Director Sean Rogan said, "Transit-oriented developments are particularly important for seniors whose independence may be affected due to limited mobility. The Metro @ Compton Senior Apartments encompass the mission of the CDC to Build Better Lives and Better Neighborhoods."

Construction, which is expected to receive a GreenPoint rating, will generate over 150 jobs and enhance the image, livability, and vitality of the Compton community. For more information on The Metro @ Compton Senior Apartments, please contact Meta Housing Corporation at (310) 575-3543 or Western Community Housing at (714) 549-4100.

## Are You Nearing Retirement?

### *RELAC Membership Is a Great Enhancement*

If so, you should consider joining the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC).

The 56-year-old non-profit serves nearly 20,000 Los Angeles County retirees and active employees. Its primary mission is to enhance, maintain, and protect pension and medical benefits of retirees.

RELAC monitors and participates in County, state, and federal legislation that affects County retirees and future retirees. Currently, three of its directors serve on the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) Board of Retirement and Board of Investments.

RELAC is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors. All are volunteers, elected from the ranks of County retirees.

The organization publishes a bi-monthly newsletter to keep members informed about changes to pension and healthcare benefits, as well as detailed information about its activities and members.

Members are eligible for supplemental insurance at exclusive discounted group rates. These plans include dental, health, vision, pre-paid legal, pet, homeowners/renters, ID theft shield, auto/motorcycle/RV/watercraft, and hearing aids. A \$50,000 personal accident insurance policy is available at no cost during the first year of membership.

Special activities are planned to allow members to keep in touch with their colleagues, including an annual picnic, seminars, luncheons, Day at the Races, Dodgers 4th of July fireworks baseball game, RV outings, golf tournaments, and travel opportunities.

Both active and retired County employees may join RELAC.

For a membership application, contact RELAC at (800) 537-3522 or [\(626\) 308-0532](tel:6263080532) or via e-mail at [admin@relac.org](mailto:admin@relac.org). For additional information, visit [www.Relac.org](http://www.Relac.org).

## LACERA Elections

### *General Member Elections to be Held for the Board of Retirement and Board of Investments of LACERA*

LACERA Elections will be held this year to elect the Second Member of the Board of Investments and the Second Member of the Board of Retirement for terms of office commencing January 1, 2015. The elections will be held **Tuesday, August 5, 2014**.

General Members interested in running for these offices may obtain nomination packets from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk at 12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk 90650. Nominating petitions must be signed by at least 50 active County employees (as of March 1, 2014) who are General Members. Petitions must be filed with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk before 5 p.m. **Tuesday, June 3, 2014**.

For more information, contact your departmental election coordinator.

## Rideshare L.A. County!

### *from the CEO/Office of Workplace Programs*

May is "Bike to Work" month.

Biking to work is a great way to stay healthy and save money while cleaning the air we breathe. If you bike to work or to the transit station, you will reap many benefits like having a free membership to a gym. You get a workout and will feel ready for the workday. In addition, you will save hundreds of dollars annually compared to driving alone (depending on the distance to work).

If you think that being in your car protects you from emissions from cars around you, then think again. Your car is not a sealed space. Those mobile emissions can be harmful. You are getting a more direct dose when you are on the highway stuck in traffic.

Dust off that 10-speed and do your part. Take pride and share the ride.

## Become a Foster Parent!

*The Department of Animal Care & Control's Foster Care Program plays an integral part in the ability to save orphaned animals.*

### Cats or dogs needing foster homes:

- Animals too young and/or immature to be adopted, including those needing bottle feeding.
- Injured animals and/or those recovering from surgery.
- Animals with special medical needs.
- Mothers with litters of un-weaned kittens or puppies.
- Abandoned litters of un-weaned puppies or kittens.

*Interested in fostering?*

*Learn how by visiting: <http://1.usa.gov/1hiHFmR>*

*"Companionship with a Purpose"*





# Retirees

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after their many years of service to the County of Los Angeles:*

## 45+ Years

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Virginia T. Gomez

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Gloria J. De Leon

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Gary T. Izumi

## 40+ Years

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Esther M. Ibarra, Adriana A. Orona,

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** Rochele Griffin

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Maria T. Marquez

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Delores J. Lanehart

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Paula Amundson, Joan Bernasconi, Leneal Casey, Bertha M. Castanon, Sandra D. Gibbs, Carma Henderson

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Bert Taylor

## 35+ Years

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Sharon L. White, Rita D. Travis

**COUNTY COUNSEL:** James M. Owens

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Sheila Solomon-Oakley

**FIRE:** Cipriano Castellano

**HEALTH SERVICES:** James D. Buentgen, Irma M. Digiampaolo, Rita T. Kita, Kathy L. Lumpkin, Rose M. Trevino, Jan Ward-McClain

**PROBATION:** Reginald Sheffield

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Howard L. Johnson

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Britt Brasseal, Carl D. Ford, Johnny McDowell

**SHERIFF:** Jeffrey A. Jablonsky, Mark L. Machanic

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Deborah L. Altieri, Hazel L. Rohr, Pola L. Shivji

## 30+ Years

**FIRE:** Robert Brandelli, Bruce L. Lakin, Frank D. McCarthy IV, Neil F. Milner, Wade A. Seymour, Jerry L. Thomsen, Ronald P. Turigliatto Sr., Daniel F. Velez

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Jennie L. Anderson, C Keith Beck, Suk Y. Jang, Virginia Mendoza, Regina Denis Woods

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Thomas M. Henninger, Samiha Khalil, Laura M. Lambertson, Michael Netkin

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Lana Tseng

**PROBATION:** Michael R. Reaves

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Philip R. Boche, Leticia Fonseca

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Rafael M. Montano, Florida Ponpon, Shirley Ramirez, Rosie E. Romero

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Ramona Castaneda  
**SHERIFF:** Allen G. Fulkerson, Cynthia R. Grundy, Terry G. Harris, Michael B. Kelley, Robert D. Klein, Steve K. Mossman, Tony Ortiz, Gregory E. Preston, Kenneth P. Talianko, Larry Torres, Garold Z. Walker II

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Gail Devezin, Teresa J. Johnson

## 25+ Years

**ASSESSOR:** David S. Gaddi, Leticia J. Hardbarger, Antonio Pavlicic, Soledad S. Sarmiento-Osborne, Josephine K. Yu

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Brenda G. English

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Brenda K. Blackburn, Audrey Moore, Joann M. Perrotta, Diana P. Streeter, Susan Weber

**FIRE:** Ernest J. Clayton, Frank N. Garcia, Clifford R. Meridith, Garry L. Wilks, Edward C. Wilson

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Trinidad L. Domagas, Patricia L. Goya, Ella B. Lane, Sylvia A. Ramirez

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Johnny L. Bruner

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Brenda J. Mar

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Frederick W. Brennan

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Maria G. Lara, Amy Wu

**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Glorieta B. Navo

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Santiago Ballesteros, Annie A. Chalian, Francisca L. Pena, Mary Pilipossian, Myna N. Quan, Huyen K. Tran

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Jess Funez, Roger Harrington, Hadrian S. Lara

**SHERIFF:** Robert L. Barcus, Lee A. Carter Jr., Giancarlo Casarotto, Linda Gilman, Laura L. Haynes, George T. Walker

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Jacqueline M. Hill, Verna M. Jones

**TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:** James A. Adekayode, Marina Salvati

## Win a Folding Bike!



From June through September 2014, get a chance to win a folding bike from the Rideshare Program.

How? Enroll in the County's Commuter Benefit Plan between June 1 and September 30. To enroll, go to [www.wageworks.com](http://www.wageworks.com).

You have a chance every month to win.



## Be Wise When Booking a Big Event

*When you rent a banquet hall, take extra precaution to keep from being ripped off*

It's the season for celebrations across Los Angeles County.

Weddings, proms, quinceañeras, anniversaries, and other parties are taking place all around. This means banquet halls and event planners are in high demand. But when demand for service grows, so does the chance of you getting ripped off.

May and June are the biggest months of the year for complaints about banquet-hall operators here at the Department of Consumer Affairs. It's the time when would-be grand celebrations sometimes end up with anger and money down the drain.

Common banquet hall rip-offs include:

- The banquet hall you have already paid unexpectedly goes out of business.
- The planner you hired will not complete their work, or will do less than what you paid for.
- A venue will switch agreed-upon locations from an attractive room to a worse one.
- A hall will serve you cheaper food, drinks, flowers, or decorations than what you paid for.

Often you won't even experience these problems until it's too late to prevent it. Like any rip-offs, you should take every possible step to avoid problems with your celebrations.

Here are some tips when renting a banquet hall or hiring an event planner:

- Use only reliable halls or planners who have been in business for a while. Check online sites like Yelp to see what other people think about them or if they have a lot of complaints.
- Hold your event at a public hall or building. (Of course, we suggest you try a County park.)
- Get your contract in writing. Make sure it lists the correct time, place, and services for your event.
- Pay with a credit card. You can dispute charges more easily with your credit card company if trouble arises.
- Pay a small deposit. Pay for the rest of the costs when you get close to the event.
- Keep in contact with the people in charge of the hall to make sure everything is correct.
- Inspect the banquet hall before signing the contract and a few weeks before the event to make sure everything appears to be in correct order.

If you have a complaint against a banquet hall, or if you have questions or complaints about any other consumer topics, contact the Department of Consumer Affairs at (800) 593-8222. Visit our website at [dca.lacounty.gov](http://dca.lacounty.gov).

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